

**Governor's Rural Affairs Council
Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2017**

1. The meeting was called to order by Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti at 11:04 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Member Agencies Present:

Illinois Department of Aging, Burt Weber
Illinois Department of Agriculture, Don Moffitt
Illinois Department of Employment Security, Shelly Tweedy
Illinois Department of Employment Security, Jeff Fulgenzi
Illinois Department of Human Services, Francisco Alvarado (phone)
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Steve Ettinger (phone)
Illinois Department of Public Health, Heidi Trenholm
Illinois Department of Transportation, Rich Brauer
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Amy Walkenbach
Illinois Community College Board, Lavonne Nelson (phone)
University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, George Czapar
University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, Anne Silvis
Illinois Housing Development Authority, Melinda Kanik
Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Christopher Merrett
Illinois Finance Authority, Patrick Evans (phone)
Illinois Farm Bureau, Brenda Matherly
Rural Partners, Blanche Shoup

Not Present: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Southern Illinois University

Citizen Members Present:

Luke Allen
Todd Kaeb (phone)
Sonja Reece

Not Present: Heather Hampton Knodle, Doug Hanks, Larry Richards

Nonvoting Members Present:

Kate O'Hara, USDA
Norman Walzer, NIU

Lt. Governor's Office Present:

Evelyn Sanguinetti
Derek Cantu
Susan Wynn Bence
Brian Costin (phone)

Quorum determined.

3. Opening Remarks

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti welcomed everyone to the first Governor's Rural Affairs Council meeting for 2017. She requested that anyone wishing to address the council to please sign in with Derek Cantu.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti thanked James Wright and Eureka College for hosting today's meeting. She also thanked Michael Murdock and Shelly Schwanke and Eureka College for the tour of the Ronald Reagan Museum and the Peace Garden. She noted that Eureka College was chartered in the Illinois Legislature in 1855. Eureka College is the first college in Illinois and the third college in the nation to admit men and women equally. She also noted that it is the smallest college and the only Illinois college to have a president of the United States to graduate. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti mentioned that Steven Logan who was Abraham Lincoln's law partner was on the first board of directors for Eureka College and she spoke about Eureka College's long standing tradition "Under the Elm." She went on to introduce Dr. Murdock.

Dr. Murdock thanked everyone for visiting Eureka College. He mentioned that most of their students are from rural areas – in the middle of cornfields – and small towns in Illinois. He mentioned that in 2016, the State of Illinois exported more students than any other state from among the 29,000 high school seniors. He expressed that exporting of talented young people was detrimental to the State of Illinois. Dr. Murdock stated that schools such as Eureka College provide education to these young people that benefit Illinois, as well as the nation. These institutions are helping Illinois prepare for the future. Institutions of higher education are preparing students to help Illinois be globally competitive, using the latest technology. The state budget impasse is hindering our ability to deliver on this work force development mission. He ended by thanking everyone for coming and extended an invitation to come back anytime.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti thanked him for the candid comments. She mentioned the current "Brain Drain" in Illinois, and stated that Illinois needs to create an attractive business environment so that students will stay in Illinois.

4. Working Groups - Legislative

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti mentioned that Representative Davidsmeyer looked into the costs related to starting a Limited Liability Company (LLC) in Illinois. In order to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start businesses, he introduced legislation to lower the fees to incorporate new businesses as an LLC. Since he was unable to attend the GRAC meeting, Brian Costin from the Lt. Governor's Office explained House Bill 3823, designed to reduce LLC fees for new business startups.

Brian Costin explained that HB3823 emerged as an idea from the GRAC Working Groups. The justification for lowering LLC fees in Illinois is that it has the highest LLC incorporation fees in the Midwest. These fees hurt emerging businesses that are trying to get started. When looking at the surrounding states, Illinois wanted to match the lowest fees which happened to be the State of Iowa. The bill intends to reduce several LLC fees in an effort to lessen the overall burden on businesses operating in Illinois. The hearing for the bill was March 30, 2017, at 8:00 am in the Stratton Building Room C-8. Brian Costin extended a welcome for all to attend.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti asked if there were any questions.

Don Moffitt asked if Illinois will match Iowa or will Illinois be even lower? Brian Costin explained that the bill matches Iowa or in several cases the fees are lower than Iowa. Don Moffitt mentioned that if Illinois is lower than the other surrounding states Illinois will be very competitive. At this point, the Lt. Governor welcomed Don Moffitt to the GRAC.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti introduced Representative Grant Wehrli, 33rd District. Representative Wehrli explained House Bill 3527, the Angel Investment Credit, and how it could be used to help fund new business startups. He explained that the bill would increase the current fund of 10 million dollars to 25 million dollars. This 25 million dollars would be designated to be used in female and minority-owned business. He also explained that 2.5 million dollars would be used in counties with populations of less than 250,000. Representative Wehrli explained that this was another tool in the toolbox that could be used to grow the economy in Illinois. He stated that Illinois needs to diversify and increase the state's economy. He then thanked Eureka College for hosting the meeting and the Lt. Governor for allowing him to speak.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti explained this bill is just another example of making Illinois grow. She then asked if there were any questions.

Blanche Shoup asked how these funds were to be administered. Representative Wehrli explained how businesses can access these funds through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) website. Sonja Reece wanted to know if the EDC in Bloomington is aware of these funds. Representative Wehrli explained that they may not be aware and he would welcome anyone wanting more information to contact him. He mentioned that his contact information is on the state's website.

Don Moffitt added that HB3527 is a great idea to advance initiatives. Representative Wehrli stated that we are all in this together to grow Illinois's economy.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti stated that she had also requested that Senator Dale Fowler attend to discuss SB2088, the Angel Investment Credit. Unfortunately, Senator Fowler was unable to attend and sent his regrets.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti stated that she had requested Senator Tim Bivins to attend to discuss SB2011, Opioid Prevention. Since he was unable to attend, she asked that Susan Wynn Bence, from the Office of the Lt. Governor, to explain this bill.

Susan Wynn Bence stated that SB2011 represents efforts from the Health Working group. Susan explained that there is a heroin crisis and that Illinois is losing too many because of overdoses of this drug. The bill stipulates a 7-day limit on prescriptions for pain killers for the initial prescription. This was passed in Massachusetts with the support of the medical profession and sheriffs.

Heidi Trenholm joined Susan and Senator Bivins in meeting with the Illinois Medical Society, who had expressed opposition to the bill. Susan at this time read a statement from the Illinois Sheriff's Association in support of SB2011. The vote for this bill will be Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti stated that she is glad that the GRAC has taken an active role in this initiative. She asked if there were any questions.

Sonja Reece stated that she works for the hospital in Bloomington. She explained that the reason there is opposition to this bill is that physicians are evaluated by patients based on the satisfaction that they provide to their patients. The question, “Did the doctor do everything possible to relieve your pain?” can cause problems for the physician if they are not given high ratings to this question. Since the physician would be limited in prescribing pain pills, there is a concern that patients would answer this question negatively, which could impact the overall evaluation and job security or longevity of the physician. Sonja stated that she thinks this question should be adjusted.

Susan explained that this bill should actually help the physician’s evaluation when patients answer that question. Since the physician would be limited by law as to the number of pain pills prescribed, the physician would not be evaluated on this as such since it was the law. Susan also noted this is only for the initial prescription not for those with cancer or in hospice care.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti said there is a proposal to renew the Illinois Coordinating Council for Transportation (ICCT). This will encourage coordination between private and public transportation to provide public transportation to those living in underserved or unserved areas, especially in rural, downstate counties.

5. Panel Discussion – AP/Dual Credit Access for Rural Schools

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti introduced Hoor Bhanpuri, College Board.

Mr. Bhanpuri thanked the Lt. Governor for inviting him to speak. He explained there are Advanced Placement (AP) opportunities outside of the metro areas. Hoor explained that the College Board regulates the education application for AP classes. During last year, there were 4 million exams given in AP classes with over 2 million students taking part in an AP class. He explained that you do have to take the exam in order to take the class. He would like to see the increase of educational standards along with more opportunities for students to take advantage of AP classes. Hoor expressed an interest in working with the GRAC and the College Board to help students accomplish more in rural places. He explained that for AP courses, teachers provide syllabi which is reviewed by higher education faculty. The faculty provide feedback to the teacher. This helps provide a standard way of accessing the standards in Illinois. Hoor would like to see an equal opportunity for all students regardless of where they live, with more in depth topics and less overall content.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti explained that recently Governor Rauner signed the AP credit bill to ensure high school students are getting appropriate college credit for their high AP test scores. She thanked Mr. Bhanpuri for explaining what the College Board does. She mentioned that she thinks that often AP Placement is confused with Dual Credit Classes. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti asked if there were any questions.

Hoor explained that AP classes are taught by the local high school teachers. There is not an accreditation policy to teach AP classes. The only limit is that teachers need to submit their syllabi to the College Board and receive approval to teach the class. Assessments are based on the national standards for AP classes.

Luke Allen asked if rural schools around the state offered access to AP courses that address employment ability skills. In the future will AP courses relate to career fields? Is there going to be a course for students to prepare for careers?

Hoor explained that the courses would have to be redesigned with problem solving and critical thinking courses. He stated there are currently 36 AP courses offered in Illinois high schools. He would like to see these courses expanded to skill-based learning courses. He noted that more work could be done to highlight the courses that overlap between courses and careers.

Jeff Fulgenzi asked how long it takes to have courses approved. Are there studies on the economic impact of AP courses? Since AP courses can reduce the number of years required to graduate, are there any studies to identify the economic impact on the community?

Hoor explained that most students who take AP courses are not leaving the schools early. He stated the average student takes 1.5 to 2 AP courses which results in 6 to 12 credit hours. He feels that these students are using the AP course opportunity to look at other avenues for academic inspiration. Research shows that AP students aren't necessarily graduating college earlier, but often choosing to add a minor degree. As far as the turnaround between submitting a syllabus and receiving approval. The approval process is very quick, taking only a few weeks.

Blanche Shoup wanted to know if there were any statistics on the retention rate in rural communities and if AP courses have impacted the retention or exiting of young people.

Hoor explained that there is a strong correlation to retention. He explained that most students who use the AP classes result in going to college. The AP classes help teach the student academic character.

Blanche clarified her question and wanted to know if these students stayed in their community or if they moved away – not just if taking an AP course correlates with high school or university retention.

Hoor stated there are not any statistics on this. However, Illinois educates students so well that other states are heavily recruiting Illinois students to attend their colleges.

Luke Allen explained that he went to a school of 110 students that did not have many options for AP courses. He would like to find a creative way to increase access to AP courses/credits. He realizes this might come at a price for many rural schools since schools are measured by the number of students in higher academic courses. By offering these courses, rural schools might not have the funds to offer other classes. Is there data showing how many students take an AP class, how many take the AP test, and how many pass the AP test?

Hoor explained that data is collected on how many students take the class as well as the number of students who take the exam and pass. He noted that most AP students take the exam, but the average passing rate with a 3.0 or higher is only 60%. He explained that part of the problem with students taking the exam is the cost to low-income students. Structures are in place to adjust fees in order to provide the opportunity for students to test with minimal impact to the school.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti thanked Hoor for speaking. She then introduced Cindy Hamlin, Illinois Virtual School (IVS). She stated that virtual schools provide increased access to courses, including AP courses, to students who might not have access in their current school. Students can stay enrolled in their current brick and mortar school while enrolling in IVS courses. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti thanked Cindy for coming.

Cindy Hamlin explained that the IVS offers AP opportunities, advanced core subjects, electives, and other options to students. She noted that the Illinois Virtual School is part of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and has worked with several schools. The current enrollment is 6,000 students annually. She mentioned that 138 semester classes are offered and asked everyone to refer to the handout that she passed out earlier. Classes are offered for middle or high schools although most classes are adopted in high schools. The classes are offered for the fall, spring, or summer semester.

She continued to explain that small schools sometimes cannot afford to offer physics or science classes. Or these schools offer basic classes, but cannot offer AP credits. Therefore, students at these schools can use the virtual school to augment current course offerings. There are 14 different times during the year that students can start classes. This flexibility allows students to address their individual needs. Summer school does have the largest enrollment. Ms. Hamlin continued to explain that the student's school has to approve the request to take the virtual classes.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti asked if there were any questions.

Sonja Reece asked if it was online or over the phone? How well is the program known?

Cindy explained that classes are online through a management system. The Illinois Virtual School continues to market to regional school district offices and to school districts. However, she stated there is always room for improvement and to make others aware of the program.

Sonja then want to know how this program was paid for. Cindy explained that there is a course access fee of \$225 or an \$85 fee for a recovery class. Instructors are board certified. She noted that either school has to pay or the student does and that the percentage is about 50% between the two options. Many schools pay for the class if they do not offer it due to the teacher shortage. However, most parents cover the costs of the AP courses.

Sonja asked if there were any student assistance programs, fee reduced programs, or financial assistance offered to students.

Cindy explained that no assistance is offered through their program.

Shelly Tweedy noted that rural schools already have problems with funding. She explained that a \$225 fee does not encourage families to take these classes. She wondered if offering financial assistance would provide diversity in rural schools.

Cindy stated that the school has looked into providing a sliding fee scale that would allow financial assistance, but currently there is no financial assistance.

Chris Merrett questioned how lab-based science courses are delivered?

Cindy explained that AP courses that are approved by the College Board with a lab experience are completed by a complete lab kit being sent to the school for the student to complete. The lab kit is then returned to the virtual school. Or if the lab can be completed by simulation online, then this method is used.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti thanked Cindy for coming and explaining what the Illinois Virtual School offers. She also mentioned that she hoped the school was tracking their success rate.

Cindy explained that the school has a 92% overall success rate. This is using the 68% of the students and factoring out the non-starters (students who registered but never started the program).

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti introduced Jodi Scott, Regional Superintendent of Schools District 33. She thanked Jodi for coming and asked, "How can we better serve AP & dual credit opportunities?"

Ms. Scott thanked the Lt. Governor for the opportunity to speak. She also thanked her for visiting some of the rural schools in her district. Jodi explained that she often interviews students and how the AP and dual credit courses affect them.

She explained the barriers that small schools face. Since small schools cannot afford to offer both AP and dual credit courses, which should they offer? Which would benefit the students more? She also explained that sometimes the teachers in these small schools lack the credentials to teach AP or dual credit classes. She also mentioned that students/parents often cannot pay the tuition required to take these type of classes.

Jodi continued that in rural schools with limited enrollment, AP classes would draw 2 or 3 students, but pull a teacher; therefore limiting what access other students have to that teacher. Rural schools do not have the funds to pay a teacher for only a 2-3 student class. Some schools share teachers to compensate for this problem. Another barrier is the lack of technology in rural areas.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti asked if there were any questions. Blanche Shoup asked about overall school connectivity and access to technology? Jodi explained that there is often an issue with connectivity. The internet/broadband is often lacking in rural schools.

Jeff Fulgenzi questioned whether students who graduate early have access to walk at graduation or attend prom? Is there a standard policy for local schools regarding early graduation? Jodi noted that access to sports is not available for early graduates. She is not aware of other activities being prohibited, but she couldn't answer statewide.

Norm Walzer questioned whether there are best practices from other states that could be used? Jodi explained a great thing about Illinois is that there is movement forward on eliminating the barriers. She sees more students taking the virtual courses. Jodi noted that the biggest barrier is the financial support for students who cannot support themselves.

Hoor Bhanpuri mentioned that the College Board has used a model from NIU on how to articulate courses. He feels that Illinois needs to provide an AP credit policy and find resources to help students. He mentioned that low income students are able to test for \$15 rather than pay the normal \$100 fee. Hoor thinks that more options are needed so that students stay in the state and start businesses after graduating so that Illinois grows.

Cindy Hamlin explained that Illinois needs more of an acceptance of online learning. Other states have more prevalent virtual learning so that more students can access this type of learning.

Hoor stated that it's a textbook issue on the tangible level. Teachers do not need accreditation to teach AP courses. Therefore, could we combine honor courses and AP courses into one course?

Chris Merrett commented that his son has recently taken an online courses both in Missouri Virtual School and in Illinois Virtual School. His son felt that the Illinois Virtual Program was the better option. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti thanked all of the speakers for attending and sharing their knowledge.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 1, 2016

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Sonja Reece made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Luke Allen. Motion passed. Minutes were approved.

7. Annual Report Discussion – Chris Merrett

Chris explained that there is a memorandum of understanding with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs to complete the Governor's Rural Affairs Council Annual Report. Chris referred to the handout that was given to everyone.

Chris explained the various maps in the handout. The maps show interesting facts about rural areas. He noted that several counties have lost population. He mentioned that job growth in the metro areas has recovered and outpaced job growth in rural areas. Illinois unemployment rate is higher than the average unemployment rate overall. One of the maps explains the difference regarding workforce and entrepreneurship rates in rural versus urban counties. Chris explained that the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) program might be a potential way to offset manufacturing job losses. Lastly, the map showing deaths of despair highlighted the amount of suicides, alcohol, or drug abuse deaths. Results show a large amount of opioid drug use in rural areas which is what the GRAC is working towards limiting. The map referencing educational funding shows that Illinois is underfunded for students by almost one-third to wealthy school districts which explains the lack of accessibility to AP or dual credit courses.

Chris stated that working group summaries are due no later than Friday, April 28, 2017. These need to be 500 to 1,500 words in length. For GRAC member agency summaries please describe new or existing programs that focus on the four working group themes – or programs that have a significant rural component. However, he would welcome suggestions and of course, will follow the Lt. Governor's lead and her suggestions.

Luke Allen asked a question regarding page 2 data. As we look at the changes in manufacturing, what are the most successful industries and what type of industry is being brought back? He noted that shortages are happening in the workforce since employees are not skilled. What should be the focus? Chris stated the automobile sectors and auto parts – small scale auto suppliers.

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti thanked Chris. She reminded all to send their reports to Chris no later than April 28th and for the reports to be between 500 and 700 words.

8. New Business

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti requested all to save the meeting dates on their calendar.

2016 GRAC meeting dates:

5-3	Springfield	11 a.m.	Location to be announced
7-19	Western Illinois University	11 a.m.	Macomb
12-6	Springfield	11 a.m.	Location to be announced

She reminded everyone of the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, August 29-31, 2017. She will be hosting Lt. Governors from other states and looks forward to everyone attending the show. The show is the largest outdoor farm event with more than 600 exhibitors including combines, tractors, seed, etc. She invited everyone to come see what Illinois is doing in agriculture. In addition, the Illinois State Fair is August 10-20, 2017, and the DuQuoin State Fair is August 26-September 5, 2017.

9. Member Updates

Norm Walzer, NIU Center for Governmental Studies:

- a. There continues to be follow up on government consolidation issues that he has worked on in partnership with the Lt. Governor's office.
- b. The Workforce Development Working Group is working with DCEO to figure out the next step in workforce. He is hoping to figure out what the working group can do to assist DCEO.
- c. There is a declining labor force in rural areas. This relates to senior citizens retiring, without have a trained work force prepared to step up. One strategy might be to have seniors work part-time so business can function.

Brenda Matherly, Illinois Farm Bureau:

- a. The Farm Bureau has a growing Rural Development focus and is interested in entrepreneurship as part of a rural development strategy – synergistic with its traditional focus on agriculture.
- b. There is a growing interest in the Farm Bureau in the CEO Program. Just as there is a need for young people to step up and become the next generation of farmers, there is a need for young people to step up and become the next generation of small business owners in rural places. Brenda thanked Chris Merrett for the introduction to the CEO program.
- c. The Illinois Farm Bureau has introduced an electronic newsletter. The link is on their website. One of the recent items in the newsletter is a summary of Farm Bureau's nationwide view on 12 economic and policy drivers.

Luke Allen, Facilitation Coordination in Agriculture Education (FCAE)

- a. Luke highlighted the Illinois Ag Education Report for 2016. This report promotes agriculture as the original STEM subject.
- b. There has been an increasing number of students taking classes. An estimated 30,500 students taking Ag classes last year.
- c. There are an increasing number of high schools teaching agriculture.
- d. Illinois is the first state to embrace online agriculture classes.
- e. The FCAE is partnering with youth programs to teach agriculture

George Czapar – Anne Heinze Silvis, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign – Extension

- a. Land Grant schools such as UIUC are focused on the opioid problem in rural America.
- b. Extension is revamping its planning processes based on state and local counties. Extension will be focusing on five issue areas: (i) health, (ii) economy; (iii) community, (iv) water quality; and (v) food access

Blanche Shoup, Workforce Development

- a. Held Rural Partners annual board meeting at IIRA conference.
- b. Focus on 4 points – transportation, healthcare, workforce, and entrepreneurship.

Heidi Trenholm and Don Jones, Illinois Department of Public Health

- a. Opioid Crisis Conference will be held on March 29-30, 2017, Springfield. Sponsors for this event include SIU School of Medicine's Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network, and the IDPH
- b. Accepting applications for nursing scholarships will be available to fund nurses planning to work in rural places. There is an estimated \$1.8 million in scholarship funds available.

Chris Merrett, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, WIU

- a. IIRA Conference had 250 in attendance along with Lt. Governor and Governor Rauner. Thanked everyone for their support – especially Norm Walzer and Sandy Wittig.
- b. Update on the Education Working Group. The CEO Program was showcased in several presentations. Macomb and Moline may host CEO programs in 2018.

Kate O'Hara, United States Department of Agriculture

- a. Rural Reverse Funding Fair. This is an effort to bring various state and federal agencies in one place for communities to get more convenient access to funding and technical assistance. The next one will take place in Moline on March 30, where 8 proposals will be presented. There will be more events like this across Illinois during summer and fall.
- b. USDA will be at the Farm Progress Show.

Don Moffitt, Illinois Department of Agriculture

- a. Don promote the need for greater access to education as part of downstate development. He was promoting the idea of having Amtrak connect all state universities.
- b. Prairie Farmer is 175 years old, the oldest continually published magazine in the US.
- c. In his new role in the Department of Agriculture, he is highlighting Centennial, Sesquicentennial, and Bicentennial farms in Illinois.
- d. He noted that John Deere was recognized in "101 Objects Made in America."
- e. Working on securing rescue tubes for grain bins for fire departments.

Sonja Reece, BroMenn Medical Center

- a. Passed out handout showing where services are provided by SIU—Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development. Two areas were highlighted with regional offices. Instructions were provided on how to best reach these offices and their service areas.
- b. Reminded all to pay attention to what is happening in the nation's capital today with respect to health care policy. This is the day that Congress is schedule to vote on whether or not it will repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare.

Melinda Kanik, Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA)

- a. The IHDA has operated for 50 years and provided \$15 billion in funds for housing
- b. It is implementing a rural technical assistance program to better serve downstate residents.
- c. In 2016, the IHDA helped provide funding support for 655 rental units, 908 households for ownership, and 294 home rentals.
- d. A new program called At Home in Illinois will provide funding support for first time home buyers, underwater mortgages, and blighted communities.

Amy Walkenbach, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

- a. The IEPA is launching a Social Media Campaign
- b. The IEPA will be starting with Twitter, and will soon follow with FB and LinkedIn to promote policies and developments in Illinois.

Jeff Fulgenzi, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

- a. IDES has needed new technology. It is retiring 8 legacy systems.
- b. Examples of new services and systems available with this technology upgrade include providing all tax data for Illinois businesses. It will develop a mobile app for career information. IDES will be able to show students career fields and average wages in real time.
- c. Business with 25+ employees will provide monthly wage info.
- d. Offered appreciation and thanks to GRAC Council and to USDA for Resource Rally

Francisco Alvarado, Illinois Department of Human Services

- a. Francisco remarked that it was a great meeting today, with a great wealth of info.
- b. The IDHS is hosting the Illinois Aging Training Conference, June 4-5, 2017.
- c. The IDHS is also focusing Ag workers and providing support for farm work families in crisis.

Burt Weber, Illinois Department on Aging

- a. Thanked Lt. Governor for supporting ICCT.
- b. Continues to appreciate coordinating with Ed Heflin at IIRA.
- c. Continue to get transportation in rural areas.
- d. RTAC Rodeo April 4-5, 2017, Northfield Conference Center, Springfield.

10. Public Comment

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti asked if there were any public comments. Derek Cantu stated no.

11. Adjournment

Lt. Governor Sanguinetti thanked everyone for their time and dedication. She thanked Eureka College again for hosting today's meeting. She requested a motion to adjourn.

Luke Allen made a motion to adjourn. George Czapar seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Chris Merrett
Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs